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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark T. Girard et al.
Serial No.: 10/073,620
Filed: February 11, 2002
For: PROCESSING ASSEMBLY
AND METHOD

Group Art Unit: 3729

Docket No.: AKI0003/US/2

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

I CERTIFY THAT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2002, THIS PAPER IS
BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST
CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Barbara A Avery
BARBARA A. AVERY

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97, 1.98 and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure 609, Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information. The Examiner's independent and thorough review of this information is solicited.

Attached hereto please find Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references. Copies of the cited references are also enclosed. The Examiner is requested to indicate consideration of each reference by initialing in the appropriate box for each reference, and returning an initialed copy with the next Official Action.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to bring to the Examiner's attention those references which may be material to the Examiner for examination of this case. However, the citation of the above references in this Information Disclosure Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent or other reference referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention. In this regard, Applicants expressly reserve the right to contest that any of the references constitute "prior art."


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No fee is believed to be necessary for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed before the receipt of an Office Action on the merits. In case the papers cross in the mail, it is requested that consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement be given under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (c)(2). If any fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and notify us of the same.

Dated: June 20, 2002

Respectfully Submitted,

By:


Kevin J. Hubbard, Reg. No. 50,717



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

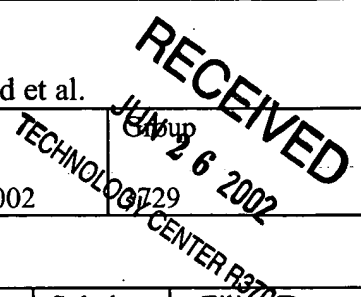
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Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Atty. Docket No.</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Serial No.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AKI0003/US/2</td> <td>10/073,620</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Applicant</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Mark T. Girard et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 11, 2002</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Atty. Docket No.	Serial No.	AKI0003/US/2	10/073,620	Applicant		Mark T. Girard et al.		Filing Date		February 11, 2002	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	4,866,836	9/19/89	Von Brandt et al.			
	4,980,783	12/25/90	Moir et al.			
	5,155,904	10/20/92	Majd			
	5,172,468	12/22/92	Tanaka et al.			
	5,198,945	3/30/93	Blaeser et al.			
	5,198,948	3/30/93	Stover et al.			
	5,249,356	10/5/93	Okuda et al.			
	5,282,102	1/25/94	Christianson			
	5,371,939	12/13/94	Ressmeyer et al.			
	5,383,270	1/24/95	Iwatsuka et al.			
	5,391,842	2/21/95	Bennin et al.			
	5,473,488	12/5/95	Gustafson et al.			
	5,491,597	2/13/96	Bennin et al.			
	5,547,082	8/20/96	Royer et al.			
	5,608,590	3/4/97	Ziegler et al.			
	5,636,089	6/3/97	Jurgenson et al.			
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	5,661,619	8/26/97	Goss			
	5,682,780	11/4/97	Girard			
	5,729,889	3/24/98	Goss			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Name	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes/No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT



Atty. Docket No.

Serial No.

AKI0003/US/2

10/073,620

Applicant

Mark T. Girard et al.

Filing Date

February 11, 2002

Group

37296

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Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	5,812,344	9/22/98	Balakrishnan			
	5,859,749	1/12/99	Zarouri et al.			
	5,865,978	2/2/99	Cohen			
	5,877,920	3/2/99	Resh			
	5,894,657	4/20/99	Kanayama et al.			
	5,912,787	6/15/99	Khan et al.			
	5,918,362	7/6/99	Yamashita et al.			
	6,002,650	12/14/99	Kuribayaski et al.			
	6,020,022	2/1/00	Ejiri et al.			
	6,071,056	6/6/00	Hollowell			
	6,130,863	10/10/00	Wang et al.			
	6,146,813	11/14/00	Girard et al.			
	6,266,869	7/31/01	Tracy et al.			

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Name	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes/No
	WO 01/23133	4/5/01	PCT			
	WO 01/71437	9/27/01	PCT			
	JP 3-47940	2/28/91	Japan			English Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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